



## Rep. John Shadegg *Press Release*

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### **Shadegg: We Can and Should Balance the Budget** *~Broad Spectrum of House GOP See a Balanced Budget Within Reach~*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ) today expressed disappointment with Senator Daschle's "my way or the highway" negotiating stance that resulted in the death of an economic stimulus bill that would have helped put Americans back to work. Shadegg was joined by a number of Republican colleagues to renew their call for a balanced budget.

"The President and the House did their job to get Americans back to work. Sadly, Mr. Daschle didn't just drop the stimulus ball, he took it and went home with it," said Shadegg. He added, "This is bad news for every American because they will not get the desperately needed boost to the economy that would promote growth and create jobs. The news is even worse for displaced workers. While they may get an extension of unemployment benefits, they will not get what they really want, their jobs back."

The demise of an economic stimulus bill does, however, mean that balancing the federal budget is now within reach. On Monday, President Bush released his fiscal year 2003 budget proposal that results in an \$80 billion deficit, most of which — \$77 billion — is earmarked for his economic stimulus plan. In light of the Senate's stimulus stalemate the real deficit for next year would be a paltry \$3 billion. This shortfall represents one-tenth of one percent of the President's \$2.13 trillion budget.

"If we can't enact a strong stimulus package that would help create jobs, then we not only can but must balance the federal budget. Surely, a fiscally responsible Congress can find one-tenth of one percent of fat to trim," Shadegg noted.

Shadegg maintains that the \$77 billion proposed for economic stimulus in the President's budget should not be left on the table to be spent on other programs.

"It is a political reality that if money is left in Washington it will be spent quicker than you can say pork project," Shadegg said. "It would be doubly irresponsible of Congress to fail to pass a stimulus bill and also leave the money reserved for economic stimulus to be spent by Washington's big spenders."

Shadegg hopes that the broad spectrum of support for a balanced budget will carry the day when the House votes for a budget resolution. "A balanced budget is sound fiscal policy and the right thing to do."

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